

# AN ADDRESS TO *ALCOHOL.*

A Poem for the Times.

---

Price 3d. net.

---

“O that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains! that we should, with joy, pleasance, revel and applause, transform ourselves into beasts!”—*Shakespeare.*

“A universal cry of despair rises from the whole universe at the sight of the disasters caused by alcoholism.”—*Professor Brouardel, at Congress on Tuberculosis.*

“I am disposed to give up my profession, to give up everything and go forth upon a holy crusade preaching to all men: ‘Beware of this enemy of the race!’”—*The late Sir Andrew Clark, M.D. (Physician to Queen Victoria).*

---

LONDON:  
ARTHUR H. STOCKWELL,  
29, LUDGATE HILL, E C



## A FOREWORD.



IT was suggested to me lately at a meeting in Middlesbrough, that I might write a pamphlet on Alcohol, for the use of sailors. I fear I have no special qualification for doing so. Here, however, is an effort which I hope may serve some useful purpose at the present time. The facts given cannot be refuted, as statements like the following will clearly show :—

(1) "Alcohol is a poison—so is strychnine; so is arsenic; so is opium. It ranks with these agents. Health is always in some way or other injured by it."—*The late Sir Andrew Clark, M.D., Physician to H.M. Queen Victoria.*

(2) "Alcohol perverts the moral nature, affects the judgment, and impairs the memory . . . it creates an enormous loss to the community through destroying the productiveness of the skilled craftsman."—*Dr. Robert Jones, F.R.C.S., before the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, 1903.*

(3) "Alcohol has a harmful action on the white blood-cells, the agents of natural defence against infective microbes."—*Professor Metchnikoff (Paris).*

(4) "It has been shown, as well by experiments on animals as by observation on man during life and after death, that alcohol weakens the heart, causes hypertrophy (excess or enlargement of an organ) and

dilatation and fatty degeneration of the muscular fibres, and that it thus increases the natural tendency to failure of the heart which is usual in old age. Alcohol, by augmenting this tendency, adds to the danger arising from acute diseases, such as influenza and pneumonia, since persons with weak hearts much more readily succumb to such diseases than persons with strong hearts."—*Sir Hermann Weber, M.D., F.R.C.P.*

(5) "In fighting against alcohol we are fighting against many diseases."—*Professor Kocher.*

(6) "That in view of the close connection between alcoholism and tuberculosis, this Congress emphasises the importance of combining the fight against tuberculosis with the struggle against alcoholism." — *Resolution of International Congress on Tuberculosis, which met in Paris in 1905.*

(7) "I have called Alcohol a racial poison, destroying the health of children through their parents. . . . No one was found to question that alcohol does cause racial degeneracy as well as its immense and ceaseless destruction of the minds and bodies of the individuals who allow it to do so."—*Dr. C. W. Saleeby writing of the International Congress of Medicine in London in 1913.*

(8) "Sir Thomas Barlow, President of the same Congress, said that one of the most notable facts in the history of medicine . . . was the lost reputation of Alcohol. He declared himself a total abstainer and

said, that, in his judgment, every doctor should be an abstainer, too. These last words he said to the most remarkable audience of leading authorities from all over the world that I ever saw in my life, and they assented with eagerness."—*From an article by Dr. C. W. Saleeby.*

And there are many other similar facts that might be quoted. What is happening in France, in Russia, in New Zealand, in the United States of America and in the King's household proves how rapidly the views of our leading scientists are being accepted; and action being taken accordingly.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2014

## AN ADDRESS

TO

*Alcohol.*

The days are evil, Alcohol!

Your boasts are not respected,  
Dynamic queries, put to you,  
Evoke replies, that prove it true,  
Your claims must be rejected.

For ages long, in many lands,  
A friend you've been regarded ;  
A glorious comfort in distress,  
A balm to make all sorrow less  
And quicken health retarded.

Uncanny miracles, you've done  
 For peasants, priests and princes.  
 Your tender care for brother man,  
 Your wish to help his every plan  
 A doubtful zeal evinces.

In short, the countless claims you've made  
 To share his every trial ;  
 To help to solve his doubts and fears ;  
 To aid his strength, all through the years,  
 Could rarely brook denial.

*"Inspiring bold John Barleycorn!"*

Was Robert Burns' ascription.  
 Your power to waken valour great,  
 To noble dreams, the mind elate,  
 Is quite the purest fiction.

*"What dangers thou canst mak' us scorn!"*

A fact quite worthy mention.  
 You make your victim mock the good,  
 Nor warning heed, till, like a flood  
 Swells every mad intention.



*"Wi' tippenny,\* we fear nae evil ; "*

Not as the poet meant it.

The eye, is blind to others' woe ;

Our thoughts and plans no conscience know,

And sin, we ne'er repent it.

*"Wi' usquebae,† we'll face the devil ! "*

A foe that all should master.

The man who hopes the fight to win,

Inspired by whisky, ale or gin,

Meets nothing but disaster.

A bold design, my pen essays—

The poet's verse to better :

*' Degradin' cheat, John Barleycorn ! '*

*' What noble dreams you bring to scorn ! '*

Is truer to the letter.

And plainer fact must yet be faced,

Defying contradiction.

*' The vaunted ale stirs every evil ; '*

*' And whisky neat turns man to devil ! '*

How sad this sure conviction.

\* Twopenny ale.

† Whisky.

For Wine's a mocker hath been said ;  
 Science gives proof persistent.  
 You lower the human temperature  
 And offer, to your dupe, the lure  
 Of heat, that's non-existent.

But more deceitful are your wiles,  
 Where intellect's in question.  
 For Science proves your crippling power  
 On mind and brain or richest dower  
 Of thought and quick suggestion.

'A food and stimulant,' they cried,  
 'Which strengthens weak heart action !'  
 But figures stern and ne'er denied  
 Prove you promote, wherever tried  
 A state of stupefaction !

'A Creature good,' they fond acclaim,  
 'To rank with air and water !'  
 Nowhere, you find this foe of man,  
 A part of Nature's kindly plan,  
 To comfort son or daughter.

'True Temperance' demands its use  
 In strictest moderation!  
 The more the Russias from it shrink,  
 The more the Kaiser's legions drink,  
 The more our jubilation!

In air, in drink, in food, always  
 The microbes fierce pursue us.  
 White cells perform unceasing quest  
 To kill, destroy, surround, digest  
 The germs that mischief do us.

These countless sentinels of health  
 Find where the germs assail us.  
 All haste, they speed them at the foe,  
 Their valiant onsets fiercer grow  
 Or nought could e'er avail us ;

No matter where the point attacked,  
 E'en from the blood they'll wrestle.  
 But Alcohol, their mortal foe,  
 Can help the germs, to overthrow  
 A giant in his castle!

As when that night in Babylon,  
 Against the Persian raider,  
 The men on guard were drunk with wine,  
 They, stupified, could not combine  
 To crush the dread invader.

And what is true of one disease  
 Is true without exception.  
 The fatal germs quick multiply  
 If these corpuscles mortify  
 Through Alcohol's infection.

But most of all, helps Alcohol  
 To spread the plague Consumption.  
 The fight against that plague begun  
 Can only be forever won,  
 On this express assumption :

That men adopt the Chemists' view,  
 And end the combination ;—  
 The plague, that claims its awful toll,  
 And its twin evil, Alcohol,  
 The great hallucination.

Life's toil and battle sterner greet

The rising generation.

Can feeble bodies, wracked with pain ;

Can crazy reason bear the strain

Of sturdy application ?

How parents quick degenerate

Through alcoholic potions !

How children have their growth impaired,

And more : by them are never shared

Life's rich and sweet emotions !

Before they know the light of day,

By drink, they are unfitted

Life's many stubborn games to play,

Relentless duty's call obey,

Through fell disease transmitted.

A gathering host's enrolling now

With this supreme intention :

To fight the deadliest, subtlest foe

That's plunged the race in mortal woe

And ills that baffle mention.

Your citadels are falling fast,  
    How loud the lamentation !  
On every hand you know defeat,  
Your boastful claims derision meet  
    'Mong men of every station.

O'er all the earth when wisdom reigns,  
    And men have clearer vision  
Of freedom, happiness and health,  
Of joy and peace and modest wealth  
    They'll form the grand decision :

They never will the fight forego  
    To speed the consummation ;  
To see the fallen idol hurled  
From every corner of the world  
    By every land and nation.

JOSEPH W. WRIGHT.



